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N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

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> STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF: Administrative Action

SUSAN SALTSTEIN License #26NO05052900 CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information indicating that on or about September 16, 2015, Susan Saltstein, RN, ("Respondent") was charged in New Jersey for (1) Count 2C:20-4A Theft by Deception; and (1) Count 2C:28-3A Making False Statements Under Penalty.

On December 3, 2015, a Flagging Letter was sent to Respondent's address of record requesting certain information about the arrest, as well as other information, including proof of having completed required Continuing Education Units ("CEU"). On December 24, 2015, the Board received Respondent's

submission, including documentation, through her attorney,
Michael Nolan, Esq. According to the documentation received,
Respondent applied for and received \$23,512.41 in assistance
from the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") for
Hurricane Sandy-related damage to a property she owned on Long
Beach Island. Respondent misrepresented on her application that
the property was her primary residence and that she spent more
than six months per year living at the property. It was
determined after investigation, that another property Respondent
owned in Pennington, New Jersey, was actually her primary
residence.

After she was charged Respondent was admitted into pretrial intervention ("PTI") for a period of 12 months on March 21, 2016. As part of the PTI agreement, Respondent was required to pay restitution to FEMA. Respondent paid the full restitution amount via bank check during a court proceeding on November 30, 2015.

On May 28, 2015, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application. Respondent was asked on the biennial renewal application whether she would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2015," referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2013, to May 31, 2015. Respondent answered "Yes" to this question and certified her answer by submitting the online application.

In response to the Board's December 3, 2015 letter,
Respondent also submitted evidence of continuing education
courses she completed. For the June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2013
renewal cycle, only 3.5 hours of Respondent's continuing
education was completed toward the 30-hour continuing education
requirements, leaving Respondent 26.5 credits in arrears; and
for the June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2015 renewal cycle, only 26
hours of Respondent's continuing education was completed toward
the 30-hour continuing education requirements, leaving
Respondent 4 additional credits in arrears. Respondent has
subsequently completed more than 30.5 credits of valid
continuing education, bringing her current with the Board's
requirements.

Respondent was also the subject of a prior Board action. In that matter, Respondent failed to timely renew her license, which expired on May 31, 2013. Nevertheless, Respondent continued to work as a nurse in the State of New Jersey until her license was reinstated by order dated September 12, 2014. In addition to reinstating her license, the September 12, 2014 Order assessed Respondent a civil penalty of \$250 for working with a lapsed license.

The Board finds that by unlawfully obtaining government funds, as described above, Respondent has engaged in professional misconduct within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 45:1-

21(e), and has engaged in acts constituting a crime or offense involving moral turpitude and relating adversely to the activity regulated by the Board within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f); that by failing to timely complete required continuing education Respondent failed to comply with the Board's continuing education regulation, N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, and has therefore violated or failed to comply with the provision of an act or regulation administered by the Board within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h); and that by misrepresenting on her May 28, 2015 renewal request that she was compliant, Respondent obtained her license through misrepresentation within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(a), all of which provide bases for disciplinary action against Respondent's license. The Board notes that although it voted to suspend Respondent's license until she completed sufficient continuing education credits, because Respondent completed sufficient credits prior to entering into this Consent Order, no suspension is necessary.

It appearing that Respondent will voluntarily enter into this agreement with the Board; and the Board finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare; and other good cause having been shown;

IT IS, THEREFORE, ON THIS THE DAY OF DEPHNISH, 2016, ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent is hereby reprimanded for her conduct

leading to her criminal charge.

- 2. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey shall be on probation until Respondent is successfully released from the Pre-Trial Intervention program and until the criminal charges against her are dismissed.
- 3. Respondent is hereby reprimanded for misrepresenting to the Board that she was compliant with the Board's continuing education requirements.
- 4. Within three (3) months after the date this Order is filed, Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete a course in ethics, which shall be approved in advance by the Board. Prior to enrolling in and completing any such course, Respondent shall submit to Deborah Zuccarelli, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey, 07101, a written request for approval of the proposed course. No later than one (1) month after completion of the approved course, documentation of successful completion must be submitted to the Board. No hours or credits earned for completing this course shall be applied towards satisfaction of Respondent's continuing education requirements. This course shall be in addition to the thirty (30) hours of continuing education required for license renewal.

5. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for failing to timely complete required continuing education. Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to State Board of Nursing, Attention: Leslie Burgos, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of filing of a fully executed copy of this Consent Order. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law. The Board will not accept any petition for removal from probation until the within civil penalty has been paid in full.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

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Bv:

Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN

Board President

I have read and understand this Order and agree to be bound by its terms. I consent to the form and entry of this Order.

Susan Saltstein

License # 26N005052900

I have reviewed this Order with my client and consent to the form and entry of this

Ordior.

Michael T. Nolan, Jr., Esq. Counsel for Susan Saltstein